



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS  
(RFQ) & EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
CONSULTING SERVICES**  
(29 Del.C. §6981)

**Agreement No. 1433**

**UNDERWATER BRIDGE INSPECTION**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this procurement is to establish a task-order agreement for consulting services for a five (5) year period. The consultant will be required to provide full-service inspection for the Department's Bridge Management Section to meet the FHWA mandated underwater inspections of required bridges.

**CONSULTANT SERVICES REQUIRED**

The successful consultant will be responsible for performing underwater inspections of up to 72 bridges and performing safety inspections on up to 65 low clearance bridges. Underwater inspections shall be routine in most cases and shall be Level I with 10% Level II inspection. In some cases, in-depth inspections will be required which will consist of Level II and some Level III inspection. The exact amounts of in-depth inspection will be determined by the Department, on a case by case basis. The requirements of FHWA report # FHWA-DP-80-1, Underwater Inspections of Bridges, shall be followed.

The underwater inspection shall also include depth soundings at each fascia, around piers where applicable, and at one bridge length upstream and downstream. Probing of foundations shall also be required.

Low clearance inspections shall consist of a complete safety inspection, and shall be performed under the requirements of Report No. FHWA-PD-96-001 - "Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges", and the current DelDOT "Element Level Data Collection Manual" (Pontis). Low clearance inspections shall include waterway and scour information, including plan and elevation sketches, and stream profiles extending one bridge length upstream and downstream.

The consultant may be asked to provide inspection services due to critical findings or to determine the extent of scour or undermining, on an on-call basis.

The consultant shall furnish maintenance of traffic devices and equipment and personnel required for performing inspections. Inspection activities and traffic control shall be coordinated with DelDOT's Transportation Management Center (TMC) and the corresponding District.

The consultant shall furnish all personnel and equipment required for performing inspections including diving gear, support equipment, workboats, and inspection equipment as needed.

The consultant shall provide written and electronic reports with color photographs of all pertinent features of existing structures, including approach roadways, elevation views, general view, upstream, downstream, bridge plaque, and any areas of distress or deterioration. Each written

report shall be sealed by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Delaware.

All underwater and low clearance inspections shall be led by a Team Leader meeting the requirements of Section 650.309(b) of the National Bridge Inspection Standards. All other inspectors shall have completed a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course.

All divers shall be commercially trained at an Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE) accredited school complying with the requirements of ANSI/ACDE-01-1998 – Commercial Diver Training – Minimum Standard, or other nationally recognized diving authority.

The diver/inspector shall be capable of recognizing signs of distress in structural members and anticipating potentially hazardous conditions.

Inspections must be overseen by a professional engineer registered in the State of Delaware with a minimum of 5 years experience in underwater inspection.

### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Expression of Interest submissions** must be received by: **3:00 P.M. Local Time, Friday, November 2, 2007.**

Facsimile responses to this Request for Expressions of Interest are not acceptable. No response hand-delivered or otherwise will be accepted after the above date and time. Expressions of Interest arriving after the deadline will be rejected regardless of the reason for late arrival. DelDOT's time is considered the official time for determining the cut-off for accepting Expression of Interest submissions. Firms wishing to be considered for work on this project must submit statements expressing interest as set forth herein. Any variation, including additions, is considered a basis for rejection. Expressions of Interest are to be mailed or delivered to:

James Hoagland  
Consultant Control Coordinator  
Contract Administration  
Delaware Department of Transportation  
800 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901

2. **Specific Type Firm Solicited:**  
The Prime Consultant must be Pre-Registered with DelDOT and appear on the Department's list of registered consultants, or make application for registration, in the area of Structure Design, Area # 2 and Construction Services, Area #4 at the time of submission in order to be considered for evaluation on this project.
3. **DBE Goals** will be established by the DBE Program Office on federally funded tasks issued under this agreement. Tasks will be evaluated independently for potential DBE participation. Expressions of Interest must include a statement of commitment to achieve goals established for individual tasks. The commitment shall include an understanding that proposed DBE firms to be used for goal attainment purposes shall be certified with DelDOT's DBE Program Office
4. **The Consultant shall submit six (6) copies** of an Expression of Interest. Receipt of insufficient copies of the Expression of Interest and non-compliance with providing the requested information in the desired format may result in elimination from the overall shortlist and selection process.

5. **Joint venture** submissions will not be considered.
6. **DelDOT reserves the right to reject** any and all Expressions of Interest. All submissions become property of the Delaware Department of Transportation and shall be retained for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the approved shortlist. DelDOT reserves the right to any and all ideas included in this response without incurring any obligations to the responding firms or committing to procurement of the proposed services.

### **RATING CRITERIA**

Major factors/criteria for the establishment of a reduced candidate/shortlist and selection:

- a) Key Staff/Project Team qualifications
- b) Firm resources/capability to accomplish proposed work on schedule, and experience on similar projects (to include sub-consultants if applicable)
- c) Project understanding/approach/services required
- d) Completeness of submission, to include clarity, readability, and presentation of materials

**NOTE:** DelDOT maintains a strict policy of not providing a debriefing for those candidates that do not make the shortlist. Shortlist and Selection Committee membership appointments are confidential.

### **QUESTIONS**

Questions regarding this RFQ should be submitted via email. Questions received and the Department's response will be provided on the Department's web site; <http://www.deldot.gov/>. Click on 'Doing Business', under 'Professional Services', click on 'Current Requests for Consulting Services'.

### **CONTACT**

**Questions concerning submissions and procedures** may be obtained from: James Hoagland, Consultant Control Coordinator, Telephone: (302) 760-2036. E-mail address: jim.hoagland@state.de.us.

### **OVERVIEW OF SELECTION PROCESS**

The Expressions of Interest will be used to determine a reduced candidate's list/short list and also will be used for reference material during the actual selection process. Once a short list has been determined, a mandatory pre-proposal meeting may be established for a briefing and provides an opportunity for the short-listed candidates to ask questions. Once the Pre-proposal Meeting has been completed, there may be a written submission and/or oral interview sessions scheduled, after which the committee will determine the successful candidate.

After the selection process has been completed, applicable price information will be requested from the successful candidate; i.e. salary rates for various classifications of personnel, an indirect cost derivation for the most current accounting period, and a schedule of rates for other direct costs. If an interested firm is requested to submit a priced proposal, the proposal should substantially reflect the same composition and area of involvement as the Expression of Interest submission.

Payroll burden and overhead will be computed on direct salary costs only (not including overtime) at the consultant's audited rate, as per Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 31, and Department policies. Computer and CADD costs are not allowable as a direct cost to this project. Rate determination and applicability is subject to audit by the Department. Additionally, candidates should be prepared for the Department to work with your current

accounting firm to provide information and backup documentation. Full and immediate cooperation is required to avoid delays in execution of an agreement. Failure to cooperate may result in breaking off of negotiations and moving to the next ranked firm.

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REQUIREMENTS**

The letter portion of the Expression of Interest shall indicate the firms desire to perform services and indicate the specific tasks or areas of expertise, which will be subcontracted, and to whom. Interested firms must submit the material required herein or they will not be considered for the project.

1. Please submit the firm's mailing address, phone number, and an e-mail address for the firm's point of contact person on page 1 of the Letter of Interest. Future contacts by DelDOT will be done via e-mail, whenever possible.
2. The Expression of Interest submission should be tabbed and collated in the following order:

#### **A. Table of Contents**

Table of Contents (1 per set) - Limited to One (1) page on 1 sheet of paper

#### **B. Letter of Interest**

Letter of Interest (1 per set) - Limited to four (4) pages on two (2) sheets of paper

Indicate the following:

- (1) An understanding of the anticipated assignments, services required, and approach to providing the services required
- (2) Identify who the proposed project manager will be and what office location they will be working from.
- (3) The location, size, and description of the firm
- (4) Availability of personnel for immediate placement
- (5) Sub-consultant usage if anticipated. **Indicate the percentage of work estimated to be performed by the sub vs. the prime.** Also, indicate if the prime consultant has previously worked with the proposed sub and give a brief example of the previous relationship(s).
- (6) The Prime/Lead consultant must indicate the present workload either as a Prime Consultant or a Sub-Consultant with the Delaware Department of Transportation by Location, Agreement No. (to include Supplementals), Total Dollar Upset Limit, total paid-to-date, and the amount still available for use on the project(s). Also, include the estimated date of completion. If possible, include the estimated fees for any Delaware DOT projects for which your firm has been selected and does not have an executed agreement in place.
- (7) Provide a listing of contracts with DelDOT for the past five (5) years. Clearly indicate if your firm has not been short listed for a DelDOT project within the past five (5) years.

#### **C. Project Organization Chart**

Project Organization Chart (1 per set) - Limited to one (1) side of one sheet of paper.

#### **D. SF 255 Forms (or SF 330)**

U. S. Government Form 255 (1 per set) - "Architect-Engineer & Related Services Questionnaire for Specific Project".

Instructions for completing the SF 255 form:

- (1) **Item # 4,** Personnel by Discipline, the consultant shall document clearly

personnel by discipline presently employed at the work location proposed and their availability for assignment to this project.

- (2) If more than one (1) location is being proposed, the consultant must clearly document all locations proposed and show the total number of personnel by discipline for all locations proposed.
- (3) **Item #7, Key Staff**, is limited to eight (8) individuals who are expected to spend a significant amount of productive time on the project. Staffing information can be either shown as two (2) individuals per page/sheet, or one (1) individual per page/sheet. Resume information presented may pertain to individual(s) that is/are not connected with the Prime/Lead consultant. It should be clearly noted what the affiliation is for any SF 255 resume information submitted other than for the Prime/Lead consultant firm. Resume information is limited to eight (8) individuals regardless of affiliation. Experience listed should be limited to that within the last five (5) years.  
If the proposed project personnel have been with the lead firm for less than one (1) year, indicate the name(s) of the previous employer(s) and the length of employment with the previous employer (s) for the last five (5) years.
- (4) **Information for Item #8, Similar Projects**, shall be limited to five (5) similar projects and shall not exceed one (1) page in length.
- (5) **Information for Item #10, Additional Information**, shall not exceed one (1) page.

**E. SF 254 Forms (or SF 330)**

U. S. Government Form 254 (1 per set) - "Architect-Engineer & Related Services Questionnaire" (include a separate SF 254 for each sub consultant proposed).

**F. References**

Provide a list of References who have personal knowledge of the prime consultant's and the sub-consultant's previous performance. Provide three (3) client references each for both the prime and the sub-consultant(s). The references must include **verified** addresses and telephone numbers, contact persons, and a brief description of services that have been provided similar to those described by Delaware DOT for this project.

- (1) References shall be shown on separate sheets (limited to one (1) single-sided sheet; one sheet for the prime and one sheet for each sub proposed). These shall not be included in the four page Letter of Interest.

No promotional materials or brochures to be included as part of the Expression of Interest package.

The Department is not liable for any cost incurred by the consultant in the preparation or presentation of the Statement of Qualifications.

The Department of Transportation will affirmatively insure individuals and businesses will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award. Minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids/proposals in response to this invitation.

**Department of Transportation**

**State of Delaware**

**By: Carolann Wicks, P.E.**

**Secretary**

**Dover, DE**

**October 8, 2007**